

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02

DOT-00 INT-08 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 ACDA-19

SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04 PM-07 H-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /211 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2924
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, UK, IMCO

SUBJECT: LOS ASPECTS IMCO WORKING GROUP ON MEPC

1. SUMMARY: EXCEPT FOR US, BRAZIL, CANADA, AND SECRETARIAT, THERE WAS LITTLE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OR INTEREST IN LOS IMPLICATIONS OF US PROPOSED MEPC. USDEL HAD UP-HILL FIGHT EXPLAINING THESE TO EUROPEANS, PARTICULARLY UKDEL WHICH TOOK VERY CONSERVATIVE LINE. DESPITE FACT REGIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES MENTIONED IN REPORT AND NOT IN DRAFT RESOLUTION, MAJOR US LOS-RELATED OBJECTIVES REFLECTED IN RESOLUTION. RECOMMEND US DOWNPLAY USE OF MEPC IN ARGUING FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS UNTIL MEPC IN FACT ESTABLISHED BY IMCO ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. CANADA. WHILE MAINTAINING POSTURE OF SUPPORT FOR MEPC, IT WAS CLEAR CANADIAN DEL WANTED TO RESTRICT OUR ABILITY TO USE IT IN LOS NEGOTIATION. BACON TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED WE WOULD USE MEPC
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ARGUMENT TO DEFEAT COASTAL STATE STANDARDS, AS IT WAS

OBVIOUS COMPANION TO OUR PROPOSALS IN SEABED COMMITTEE. THUS CANADA SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED REFERENCE TO REGIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES IN RESOLUTION, RELYING ON CONSERVATIVE EUROPEAN FEARS THAT THEIR PRESENT OR FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS IN BALTIC, NORTH SEA, AND MEDITERRANEAN COULD BE PREJUDICED, AND THAT COMMITTEES COULD COST MONEY OR DISPERSE IMCO MEETINGS. CANADA RAISED DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REGARDING QUORUM OF MEPC, WHICH CLEARLY PRESENTED US WITH PROBLEM THAT SMALL QUORUM WOULD OPEN COMMITTEE TO CHARGES OF MARITIME POWER DOMINANCE, AND VERY LARGE QUORUM COULD RENDER IT INEFFECTIVE. CANADA (SUPPORTED BY BRAZIL) UNSUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED MEPC ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING BEFORE SANTIAGO, BUT MAY CARRY FIGHT TO IMCO ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER. CANADA WORKED TO PREVENT EXPRESS LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION THAT WOULD PERMIT REFERENCE OF DUMPING CONVENTION TO MEPC. DESPITE EARLY POSITION OF LIMITING MEPC TO VESSEL-SOURCE POLLUTION, THEY WERE OF NO ASSISTANCE IN ELIMINATING BROADER REFERENCES TO POLLUTION IN PREAMBLE THAT COULD PROVE OFFENSIVE IN GENEVA, AND SAID PRIVATELY "LET THE OTHERS SEE THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING." ONE ATTEMPT AT AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE THAT SEEMED DESIGNED TO CONFIRM ARCTIC POLLUTION LEGISLATION WAS UNSUCCESSFUL AFTER ISSUE WAS EXPOSED BY US AND SOVIETS STRONGLY SUPPORTED OUR POSITION. BACON TENDED TO TREAT ISSUES AS A GAME, AND GOOD RELATIONS WERE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT. CANADIAN CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP (O'NEILL) REMAINED FAIR AND EFFECTIVE THROUGHOUT, AND REST OF CANADIAN DEL SEEMED ANNOYED AT BACON'S ANTICS.

3. SECRETARIAT. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (GOAD), DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL (QUEGUINER), AND LEGAL ADVISER (MENSAH) SEEMED WELL AWARE OF LOS IMPLICATIONS--PARTICULARLY REGARDING FUTURE OF IMCO, AND WERE EXTREMELY HELPFUL. QUEGUINER SEEMED ATLEAST IN PART RESPONSIBLE FOR SURPRISINGLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF FRENCH DEL.

4. CONSISTENT WITH GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE UK APPROACH TO IMCO AND EMPHASIS ON MARITIME SAFETY, UK (PARTICULARLY JOHN ARCHER) SEEMED MOST CONCERNED TO LIMIT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF MEPC AND, TO USE THEIR LANGUAGE, HOLD ON TO CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR TAIL. DR. COLE (AGRICULTURE) SEEMED UNUSUALLY HOSTILE, AND IN PRIVATE CRITICIZED US FISHERIES POSITIONS IN ICNAF AND ENVIRONMENTAL POSITIONS ELSEWHERE AS BEING BASED ON PURE POLITICS WITH NO SCIENTIFIC OR ECONOMIC BASIS. IN RESPONSE TO OUR EXPLANATIONS OF LOS IMPLICATIONS, HE SAID PRIVATELY LOS CONFERENCE WOULD ADOPT 200-MILE POLLUTION AND FISH ZONE ANYWAY, AND THAT DEFENSE AND OIL PEOPLE WOULD FORCE IT DOWN EVERYONE ELSE'S

THROAT.

5. SUBJECTIVE IMPRESSION WAS THAT USSR, FRG, NETHERLANDS
NORWAY, AND JAPANESE DELS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD OR WERE
TOLD BY CAPITALS THAT SUPPORT FOR US MOVES WERE IMPOR-
TANT IN CONTEXT LOS POLLUTION NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THEY
WERE NOT ALERT ON THESE ISSUES AND REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE
COACHING. ANNENBERG

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